



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Yasushi OKABE

Group Art Unit: 2859

Application No.: 10/803,990

Examiner: Y. GUADALUPE

Filed: March 19, 2004

Docket No.: 118201

For: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action mailed July 12, 2005, the shortened statutory period for reply being extended by the attached Petition for Extension of Time, reconsideration of the above-identified application is respectfully requested. Claims 1-54 are pending.

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 6-9, 11, 15-30, 32, 34, 35, 39, 41, 44-50 and 52. For the reasons discussed below, the remaining claims are also allowable.

Claims 1-5, 10, 12-14, 31, 33, 36-38, 40, 42, 43, 51, 53 and 54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Kimura et al. (Kimura), U.S. Patent No. 6,665,047. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Kimura fails to disclose an image forming apparatus with a cassette that includes a cover portion that conceals a first opening (through which an exchange unit is detachably attached to an accommodating portion) when the cassette is at a first position, as recited in claim 1. Kimura also fails to disclose an image forming apparatus where an outer wall of a

cassette conceals a first opening (through which a process cartridge is detachably attached to a main body) when the cassette is at the first position, as recited in claim 54.

Kimura discloses an image forming apparatus with a guide 31 that serves as an opening means so that a transfer roller 20 and a fixing roller 21 moves in accordance with a rotation of the guide 31 (col. 5, lines 18-21). When the guide 31 is rotated on a rotating fulcrum 32 (disposed on a side of the guide 31 closer to the sheet cassette 10), a user can detachably attach a process cartridge 16 to the image forming section (Fig. 3 and col. 5, lines 57-67).

Kimura fails to disclose a cassette with a cover portion (claim 1) or outer wall (claim 54) that conceals an opening (first opening) through which an exchange unit (claim 1) or process cartridge (claim 54) is detachably attached because Kimura's guide 31 conceals the opening. Kimura fails to provide any disclosure with regard to using a cover portion or outer wall associated with Kimura's sheet cassette 10 to conceal an opening through which the process cartridge 16 is detachably attached to the image forming section. Kimura instead discloses a guide 31 that is separate from the sheet cassette 10 to conceal the opening.


Page 2 of the Office Action asserts that Kimura's first opening is defined by the area receiving the recording medium and the second opening is defined by the area receiving the cartridge. The Office Action continues by asserting that Kimura's process cartridge 16 is detachably attached to an accommodating portion through the first opening. This interpretation is not consistent because the first opening has been defined as an area receiving the recording medium and an area where the process cartridge 16 is detachably attached to the accommodating portion. Furthermore, Kimura's sheet cassette 10 does not include any cover portion or outer wall that conceals any opening through which the process cartridge 16 is detachably attached. A guide 31 that is separate from the sheet cassette 10 and mounted via a fulcrum 32 conceals the opening.

In view of the foregoing, Kimura fails to disclose all of the features recited in claims 1 and 54 as well as the additional features recited in the dependent claims thereof. It is respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-54 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:SMS/ccs

Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time

Date: November 14, 2005

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